THE

VIRGINIA MAGAZINE

OF

HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

THE VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

FOR

THE YEAR ENDING JUNE, 1905.

VOLUME XII.

RICHMOND, VA:
HOUSE OF THE SOCIETY,
No. 707 EAST FRANKLIN ST.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

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Editor of the Magazine.

WILLIAM G. STANARD.

WILLIAM ELLIS JONES, PRINTER,
RICHMOND, VA.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Virginia Historical Society

AT ITS

ANNUAL MEETING

HELD IN THE

Society's Building, December 28th, 1904,

WITH THE

LIST OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

RICHMOND:
WM. ELLIS JONES, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.
1904.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Virginia Historical Society,

IN

Annual Meeting held December 28th, 1904.

As, for various reasons, there was to be no address this year, the annual meeting of the Virginia Historical Society was held in the Society's House, 707 E. Franklin street, on Wednesday, December 28, 1904, at 4 P. M.

President W. Gordon McCabe called the meeting to order, and stated that the first business was the reading of his report, which had been examined and approved by the Executive Committee.

He then read the report as follows :

The President's Report.

To the Members of the Virginia Historical Society :

I have the honor to submit the following report, giving in detail the work of the Society and presenting a statement of its condition as to finances, membership and property for the year ending November 7, 1904, which report has been carefully examined, verified and unanimously approved by your Executive Committee.

MEMBERSHIP.

The membership of the Society is now 729, as against 749 for the year 1903. This reduction is partially due to the unusual number of deaths among our members, but in chief measure to our being compelled to drop from the rolls such delinquents as have persistently ignored the repeated reminders of our Secretary that they had long been in arrears.

In view of the fact that the Society is almost entirely dependent for support on the annual dues of its members, and in justice to those who do pay, the Executive Committee is resolved to purge the rolls of all such persistent delinquents, who apparently are quite willing to go on receiving the valuable publications of the Society, and to allow their more conscientious fellow-members to pay for them. It may be remembered that we found it necessary to do this last year, and the wisdom of our drastic action has been amply vindicated by the result, our collections for the current year having been far more satisfactory than in 1903.

But it is pertinent to state here that of those who finally do pay, there are still too many who in the settlement of dues procrastinate beyond a time usually deemed becoming among punctilious men and women, and to these we appeal again for prompter payment.

They cannot excuse themselves on the plea of forgetfulness, for Simon Peter himself was never more instant in "stirring up" the faithful among the Gentiles "by putting them in remembrance" than is our faithful Secretary in courteously reminding these laggards and delinquents of their high privileges, and consequent obligations, as members of so dignified and honorable a body. Despite this purging of our rolls, it is most gratifying to be able to state that the finances of the Society are in a thoroughly sound and satisfactory condition, as will be seen from the subjoined report of our able and devoted Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report.

Balance on hand November 7, 1903		$ 287 81

Receipts.

Annual dues	$3,382 45	
Life members	300 00	
Magazines (sales)	138 85	
Publications (sales)	40 50	
Interest	304 51	
Advertisements (in magazine)	97 50	
Miscellaneous sources	26 00	
Mortgage (permanent fund)	3,000 00	
State Bank certificates (permanent fund)	1,200 00	
		8,489 81
		$ 8,777 62

Expenditures.

General expenses	$ 401 64	
Printing magazine, &c	1,019 55	
Postage, express and stamps	129 95	
Salaries	1,650 00	
Wages	240 00	
Stationery, binding, new books	120 50	
Insurance	60 00	
Repairing chimneys to Society's house	141 50	
Permanent fund	250 00	
Mortgage	4,500 00	
		8,513 14
Balance in State Bank November 12, 1904		264 48

The treasurer holds on account of the permanent fund:

Virginia three per cent. century bond	100 00
Mortgage, running three years, at 5 per cent. from May 4, 1904	4,500 00
Total	$ 4,600 00

This financial exhibit is the more encouraging when it is remembered that this year we had to incur the extra-ordinary expense of $141.50 for repairs of the chimneys at the society's house, which were absolutely imperative. Thus it will be seen

that the total receipts for this year have been $259.61 in excess of those of last, while our expenses have been $101.66 greater, an excess in expenditure more than accounted for by the cost of repairs to the chimneys ($141.50).

During the present fiscal year the $3,000 mortgage due the society was paid, and we have been fortunate enough to add $1,500 to that sum and to secure another mortgage for $4,500, running three years from May 4, 1904, at 5 per cent. The importance of this investment can be better realized, perhaps, through the simple reminder that the yearly interest from this mortgage equals the dues of forty-five annual members.

Since the date of the Treasurer's report our kind and unforgetting friend, Byam K. Stevens, Esq., of New York city, has made to us his usual annual Christmas gift of $10.

Additions to the Library.

The acquisitions made by the library during the year consist of 379 books and pamphlets. Among the donors of these books and objects of historical interest may be named professor W. E. Dodd, Professor W. H. Mace, Rev. Robert Gray, Rev. S. F. Hotchkiss, Captain Robert E. Lee, Jr., General William P. Craighill, U. S. A.; Captain Albert I. Bowley, U. S. A.; Dr. J. N. Upshur, Dr. C. E. Godfrey, Judge W. J. Leake, Messrs. Worthington C. Ford, Philip A. Bruce, Carter H. Harrison, Nathaniel P. Dandridge, William A. Crozer, Samuel Troth, W. B. Groarty, J. W. Givens, Dunbar Roland, W. C. Houston, C. T. Yerkes, Edward Wilson James, Edward P. Valentine, Thomas Hughes, Frank E. Best, William Wallace Tooker, Albert Matthews and J. C. Brown; Mrs. E. P. Dismukes and Miss Lucy F. Bittinger.

The most important work done in the library this year has been the collecting, careful collating and binding of the serial publications of various historical and genealogical societies at home and abroad; of the official publications of the different State governments, and of much other matter in pamphlet form of notable value and interest to historical students and antiqua-

rians. Complete sets of these serial and State publications, substantially bound, have now been arranged in a separate room of the Society's House, so as to be easily accessible, and constitute a collection of documents of the highest import.

The work of collating and binding goes steadily on, and will be extended to cognate subjects as our means allow. In addition to this binding, more than six hundred pamphlets have been arranged in binding cases and a careful index made to the entire collection. The prosecution of this latter work has been greatly furthered through the liberality of Edward P. Valentine, Esq., who presented us with thirty-five binding cases, for which, on behalf of the Society, we desire to make grateful acknowledgment.

During the past year, our expert copyist has completed the work of making transcripts (for future publication) of the scattered and much worn journals of the Colonial Council, sitting as an "Upper House" of Assembly, which are among the State archives. These copies, chronologically arranged and bound in two large volumes, have yielded most valuable data to quite a number of historical writers, who, during the year, have come from different parts of our country to consult them at the Society's House.

The same competent copyist is now engaged on the "Executive Journals" of the Council from 1738 to 1763, which bid fair to amply repay the labor necessary for accurate transcription, and will, beyond question, furnish valuable original matter for our Magazine.

The journals of the "Upper House" are of very considerable volume, as well as of notable historical value, and your Committee may, at no distant date, decide to print a limited edition of them, should a sufficient number of subscribers come forward.

In this connection the Committee desires to make cordial acknowledgment of courtesies extended by John P. Kennedy, Esq., State librarian, to our copyist and to the officers of the Society, who constantly avail themselves of the resources of the State Library.

This is, perhaps, the proper place to note that the Society has recently received from Captain Albert J. Bowley, U. S. A., some twenty-six pages of the Prince George County Record Book of 1733, which had been carried off by some Federal soldier during our Civil war. There must be many of these lost "Record Books" of the counties lying in "Tidewater" and "Piedmont" Virginia still scattered through the North, and we appeal to such high-minded men as Captain Bowley to assist us in their recovery.

Your Committee reiterates its earnest hope, shared, we are sure, by every member of the Society, that the early Virginia records in the Congressional Library may, as has been indicated, soon be published, and that these treasures, hitherto known to a mere handful of specialists, may thus be made available to all students, at home and abroad, of our colonial history. The value of the "Minutes of the London Company" has long been known, but the weighty import of the "General Court Minutes" is less generally appreciated. To instance, not one word of these "General Court Minutes" covering the years from 1622 to 1626 has ever been printed, and yet this is precisely the period about which our information is most meagre and unsatisfactory.

It may be of interest to note here that this collection of early Virginia records in our great national library also contains many unpublished letters from the "London Company" and from the English government, as well as numerous proclamations issued by our early colonial governors, and not a few firm, yet respectful, petitions addressed to the latter by the fearless, but thoroughly loyal, colonists.

Your Committee, at its last meeting, formally and heartily endorsed a bill just presented in Congress providing for the establishment of a "United States Record Commission," similar to the Commissions long established in England, France and other European countries, having for its aim and scope the systematic and thorough investigation of foreign and state archives and cognate records dealing with the early explorations, colonization and subsequent development of our country. These investiga-

tions, made by expert scholars, would, as in England and France, be published by the government, and beyond question throw a flood of light on many puzzling obscurities of our early history.

The importance of such a Commission is too obvious to need argument, and it is most earnestly hoped that every member of this Society will use his and her influence with Representatives in Congress to assure the passage of this bill.

GIFTS.

The gift of a MS. from Captain Bowley has been referred to. Among other donations may be mentioned a fine photograph of an admirable portrait by Carpenter of John Tyler, President of the United States, the original of which is in possession of Clarence W. Bowen, Esq., of New York city; a large colored photograph (almost life-size) of a portrait of Colonel William Claiborne, "Secretary of State of Virginia," the gift of Mrs. Herbert A. Claiborne, of this city; a very interesting collection of photographs and printed documents, illustrative of the "Centennial Celebration" at Yorktown in 1881, presented by General William P. Craighill, U. S. A., who, on that historic anniversary, was the engineer officer assigned by the government to assist the "Centennial Committee." The collection contains the following large photographs:

(1) "The Moore House, in which the articles of surrender were signed; (2) Old tombs in the churchyard at Yorktown; (3) The Yorktown (colonial) custom house; (4) The orator delivering the centennial oration; (5) Laying the corner-stone of the monument; (6) The monument (as completed); (7, 8, 9 and 10) Inscriptions on the four sides of the base of the monument; (11) Warships in York river, 1881; (12) Governor Holliday, of Virginia, and staff; (13) Plans of the regular and volunteer troops who took part in the celebration; (14) Roster of American and French troops at the siege of Yorktown. In addition, a number of reports, proceedings, orders, &c., all relating to this "Centennial Celebration."

Publication Committee.

The Magazine has been regularly published and will be continued during the coming year on the same settled lines, our paramount purpose being to print only original, "first-hand" documents. That this purpose has commended itself to determined historical students has been abundantly attested by the volume of gratifying notices which the Magazine has received from expert authorities at home and abroad.

It is not, indeed, immodest for us to declare that our Magazine, under the able editorship of our learned and accomplished Corresponding Secretary, is to-day recognized everywhere by students of American colonial history as a necessary part of their critical apparatus.

The striking monograph of Samuel H. Yonge, Esq., on the "Site of Old Jamestown," which has been running serially in the Magazine, has been completed, and the Executive Committee has taken great pleasure in allowing out sister society, "The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities," to use our types, already set up, for striking off several hundred copies in sheets of this exhaustive discussion of the site and buildings of the first capital of Virginia.

These sheets, bound up in book form, and including a number of new illustrations, in addition to those in the original serial publication, constitute a contribution to our early history that reflects the greatest credit on Mr. Yonge, both as a scientific engineer and acute archaeologist.

It is pleasant to add that in its book form this monograph is selling rapidly and promises to assist materially the fund which the patriotic women of the "Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities" are seeking to establish for the systematic prosecution of their work at Jamestown.

"The Vestry-Book of King William Parish (the Huguenot Settlement), 1707-1749," to which special attention was called in the president's last annual report, and which has also been running serially in the Magazine throughout the year, is nearing

completion. This Vestry-Book, written in the quaint French of the time, admirably translated and no less admirably annotated by Professor Robert H. Fife, of Wesleyan University, Connecticut, a member of this Society, has, by reason of the vivid light it throws on the internal economy and personal life of our first Huguenot settlement, excited the liveliest interest throughout the country among the descendants of those noble exiles "for conscience's sake." When completed in the Magazine your Committee proposes to print and put on sale an edition of two hundred copies of the Vestry-Book.

Another important serial publication in the Magazine, also specially adverted to in the annual report for 1903, has been the translation of the "Diaries of the Moravian Missionaries," who came from Pennsylvania to the Western portion of our colony about the middle of the eighteenth century (1748 sq.) These "Diaries," translated by the Rev. William J. Hinke, of Philadelphia, in conjunction with Charles E. Kemper, Esq., of Washington, from the originals at Bethlehem, Pa., have been carefully annotated by these two able scholars, and, as thus edited, add materially to our knowledge of the important German element in the settlement of Virginia, and must prove especially valuable to students of the early history of "the Valley." The coming year will see the completion of these "Diaries" also.

Not less worthy of note have been the "Virginia Gleanings in England," contributed to the Magazine by that trained antiquarian, Lothrop Withington, Esq., of London, who with rare generosity, has given freely of his valuable time in furthering the aims of this Society, and to whom we already owe a heavy debt of gratitude for repeated services in its behalf.

These "Gleanings," we may observe here, have proved of marked interest, not only to such members of the Society as are interested primarily in genealogy, but, by affording new details in regard to such early Governors as Francis West and such conspicuous clergymen as Alexander Whitaker, besides a vast mass of fresh data touching various members of the "Virginia Company" and the early colonial clergy, have enabled us to

extend and confirm our claims as to the high character of the men who settled this grand old commonwealth.

Distinguished historians like John Fiske and Alexander Brown have very justly devoted much consideration to the social status of the early immigrants to the "Virginia Plantations," as well as to their business relations with the mother country, their individual blood ties and the original localities from which these emigrants came. It is just this sort of specific and personal information that makes these "Gleanings" such delightful and profitable reading.

Perhaps the most notable impression made by them upon the historical student is the proof they afford of how great a part London played from the very first, and continued to play, not only in matters of mere trade, but in the care and enterprise displayed in selecting and sending out immigrants.

The characteristics of the people of a civilized capital must necessarily have differed widely from those of the yokels of rural districts, whose mental horizon was commonly bounded by the limits of the parish, and who were imbued with all sorts of gross superstitions, giving implicit credence to the most grotesque predictions and incantations of withered beldames, and submissive as hinds to the petty tyrannies of some tipsy "lord of the manor."

To what degree the character of Virginia people and the course of Virginia history have been influenced by so large an original element of London-bred folk, opens up an interesting field of investigation and deduction to candid students of sociology. It, however, remains a suggestive fact that Virginia burnt no witches, that whatever of religious intolerance there was died a speedy death, and that exactly a century before the "United Colonies" rose in arms under George Washington against the arbitrary exactions of the mother country, the Virginia yeomen flamed out into so-called "rebellion" under Nathaniel Bacon against the tyranny of Sir William Berkeley, thus becoming the pioneers in the Western world of the great struggle

for constitutional liberty, which more than a hundred years after found its culmination on the plains of Yorktown.

Apropos of the importance of this point, Fiske, in his delightful *Old Virginia and Her Neighbors*, says: "The pedigrees of horses, dogs, and fancy pigeons have a value that is quotable in hard cash. Far more important for the student of human affairs are the pedigrees of men. By no possible ingenuity of constitution-making or of legislation can a society made up of ruffians and boors be raised to the intellectual and moral level of a society made up of well-bred merchants and yeomen, parsons and lawyers. One might as well expect to see a drayhorse win the Derby. It is, moreover, only when we habitually bear in mind the threads of the individual relationship that connects one country with another, that we get a really firm and concrete grasp of history. Without genealogy the study of history is comparatively lifeless."

Still another noteworthy feature of our Magazine during the past year has been the series of papers comprising the "Proceedings of the Virginia Committee of Correspondence, 1759-'70," which has claimed so much of our space. It would, of course, be a work of supererogation to dwell upon the vital importance of the correspondence between a dependent colonial government and its confidential representative in the mother-country.

From these confidential letters of the "Virginia Committee" to their accredited agent in England, Edward Montague, Esq., of the Middle Temple, first published to the world in our Magazine, the general reader, as well as the historical student, gets a firm grasp of the temper and aspirations of the "General Assembly," and has laid before him at first-hand the reasons that led to the enactment of various important laws by that body.

The last installment of the "Proceedings" deals in most interesting fashion with a matter which historians of the colony have altogether ignored, or, at best, barely touched up, yet a matter, we must all allow, that was of prime importance—the determined

efforts of the home government to restrict the extension Westward of our borders, and the equally persistent determination of the colonist to plant new settlements in that region, and secure an outlet for trade in that direction. The virtual silence on this point of historians, who have specifically written the history of Virginia, may have been owing, perhaps, to lack of precise information, but, at any rate, the fact remains that this important point has been brought out in these letters as never before.

On the completion of the publication of these "Proceedings," further detailed information touching this most interesting question of the extension of our Western boundary line, comprised in several most valuable unpublished documents, will be presented in the pages of the Magazine. Suffice it to say, in passing, that the first conscious effort made in Virginia's "Winning of the West," was in 1720, when Brunswick and Spotsylvania counties were organized, Spotsylvania being the first county which definitely included lands lying west of the Blue Ridge mountains.

In the "Journals of the Virginia Council, 1721-1734, may be found many entries bearing on the subject, wherein are specifically stated the special privileges offered colonists who should be willing to take up lands for permanent settlement in these new counties.

Copies of these entries are now being made, and will be published in the Magazine, elucidated by copious annotations, made by Charles E. Kemper, Esq., of Washington, D. C., a well-known specialist in this branch of our history, to whom grateful reference has already been made in this and previous reports.

Of other original matter of high import awaiting publication in the Magazine, mention may be made of (1) numerous unpublished records in the "Randolph MSS.," belonging to the society; (2) the volume of valuable copies, made last year by order of the Executive Committee, of the Virginia records in the "Congressional Library;" (3) the copies and abstracts of papers in the English Public Records; (4) "The Legislative Documents" of the colony, beginning in 1774, and continuing through the whole Revolutionary period; (5) the great mass of MSS. belong-

ing to the Society, comprising the Ludwell, Massie, Campbell and Lee papers, and others of like character; (6) the Journals of the Virginia Council, 1738-1763.

All these, when published, cannot fail to enlarge the boundaries of our precise knowledge touching "Old Virginia and Her Neighbors."

Even from this incomplete survey of the work accomplished by the Magazine, the Society can form some adequate notion of how wide is the field it seeks to cover, and how keen must be the vigilance of an editor possessed of the ambition to cover it in a manner worthy the high requirements of modern historical science.

As has been seen, we are printing a translation of German accounts of our Valley settlements, and another translation of the parish records of a famous French settlement not far above Tidewater, and it is to be noted, as indicating how cosmopolitan is our membership, that, while members in Middleton, Conn., in Philadelphia and Washington are sending us these valuable contributions, another member over seas is helping us to a minuter knowledge and clearer cut apprehension of those sturdy English pioneers, who first settled, and in the teeth of appalling dangers and repeated disasters, laid firm and deep the foundations of Western Empire.

Deaths.

The following members (with exceptions noted) have died during the present year:

Virginius Newton, Richmond, Va., formerly a Vice-President of the Society, and up to the time of his death an Annual Member.

Life Members.

Hon. E. S. Mallory, Jackson, Tenn., (died in 1903, but not reported before to the Secretary).

Levi Z. Leiter, Chicago, Ill.

ANNUAL MEMBERS.

John Addison, Richmond, Va.

Mrs. Molly T. Armstrong, Bridgeport, Ky., (died in 1893, but not reported before to the Secretary).

Robert S. Bosher, Richmond, Va.

James R. V. Daniel, Richmond, Va.

Right Rev. Thomas U. Dudley, M. A., LL. D., D. C. L., Bishop of Kentucky.

Michael Lloyd Ferrar, Ealing, Eng.

Colonel Burton N. Harrison, New York city.

Major Mann Page, "Upper Brandon," Va.

Robert L. Parrish, Covington, Va.

Orestes Peirce, Oatland, Cal., (died in 1893, but not reported before to the Secretary).

Reuben Shirreffs, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Frank A. Walke, Norfolk, Va.

Mrs. C. F. Wall, Nashville, Tenn.

This is an appalling necrology, far the largest in the history of the Society, and those of us who are citizens of Richmond, cannot fail to mark with profound sorrow how many of our oldest and dearest friends are included in the list—the high-bred, genial Newton, whose charming personality, solid acquirements and civic virtues claimed the affection and admiration of gentle and simple alike—the shy and gentle Daniel, who illustrated in his daily life the high and noble qualities bequeathed him by a long line of distinguished ancestors—the modest Bosher and unobtrusive Addison, both of whom proved themselves daring soldiers, when Virginia, in '61, called upon her children to uphold her ancient sovereignty, yet known of all men in days of peace not merely as wise men of affairs, but above all, as open-handed philanthropists, instant in all good works, and ever ready with purse and tender sympathy, to "bind up the broken-hearted" and minister to the needs of their less fortunate fellows.

Scarcely less well-known to us all was Mann Page, of "Upper Brandon," the typical Virginia country-squire of a bygone time—bluff, jovial, fearless, the soul of hospitality, and in every relation of life true to the best traditions of the noble stock from which he sprung.

Familiar, too, on our streets, whenever the Court of Appeals was in session, was the Roman face and figure of Robert L. Parrish, of Covington, a learned lawyer, and one of the most powerful and persuasive advocates that ever adorned the Virginia bar, whose quick and generous sympathies, and lofty standards of personal honor had endeared him to all who possessed the privilege of his friendship, while the vigor of his intellect, the sobriety of his judgment and his steady adherence to the loftiest ideals of conduct, entitle him to rank with the noblest and best of our Virginia "Worthies."

In the death of Bishop Dudley, of Kentucky, not only his mother-state, but the whole country has sustained a grievous loss. A native and long a resident of this city, he always, to the very last, fondly spoke of Richmond as "home," and though, as time went on, high ecclesiastical preferment took him far away from us, he lived and died a Virginian of the Virginians. A brilliant scholar, carrying off the highest honors of our University, when scarcely more than a lad, a profound theologian, a consummate master of a vigorous English style and an orator of the very first rank, his chaste, yet impassioned, eloquence must long remain a great tradition in the ancient communion, which he served to the end with such simple piety and signal ability.

It is no small indication of the patriotism inherent in Virginia folk, that every one of these men, save J. R. V. Daniel, an infant at the time, served his State in arms during the momentous years, from '61 to '65.

The Society will also note in the necrology the name of Michael Lloyd Ferrar, Esq., of England, an accomplished scholar and antiquarian, whose services to the Magazine have been of the greatest value. In 1902 he began the publication in its pages

of the "Ferrar Papers," placed in his hands, as a Ferrar, by the Master and Fellows of Magdalen College, Cambridge, and comprising not only a mass of private letters, but the public and semi-public correspondence between the two deputies, John and Nicholas Ferrar, and the leading men in Virginia during the early years of the seventeenth century.

These "Papers" have been very generally recognized as of marked value, and it is only meet that we should here give expression to our unfeigned sorrow at the death of such a generous benefactor of the Society.

In this sad connection, it is but proper that your Committee should record their unaffected sorrow at the death of a gentleman, who, though not a member of the Society, was in close touch with its work, and always most untiring in furthering its advancement—the late Thomas E. Nimmo, Esq., who, for several years past, has had charge of arranging and indexing the State archives.

A descendant of the once famous James Nimmo, Revolutionary patriot, and long the Nestor of the Norfolk bar, whose quaint figure, child-like simplicity and antique incorruptibility still live in the graphic portrait of him drawn by the inimitable pencil of Hugh Blair Grigsby—*nomen venerabile!*—in his monograph on Governor Littleton Waller Tazewell—a descendant of this irresistibly attractive and ingenuous "Worthy," Mr. Nimmo, himself one of the simplest and most modest of men, afforded another illustration of the laws of heredity.

True to his blood, he served his native Commonwealth in the War between the States with the same serene and indomitable courage that had characterized his patriotic progenitor, while in the peaceful employments of his later years, spent among his beloved records and MSS, his innate modesty, gentle courtesy and generous readiness to help all interested in Virginia history, made it a delight to every student to visit the department of archives committed to his keeping.

Our last report ended with an earnest appeal to our own members and those of the "Association for the Preservation of

Virginia Antiquities" to use every effort, by letter and personal interview, to secure from Congress an appropriation to complete the "sea wall" at Jamestown, and thus do their part as patriotic Americans in seeking to preserve from the ravages of time and tide the historic spot, fraught with the noblest inspiration to a free people, on which was held the first legislative assembly in the Western world.

It is now my pleasing privilege to conclude this report with the formal announcement, already known to most of you, that the appropriation was duly made and that the completion of the "sea wall" has begun.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. GORDON McCABE,
President.

Election of Officers.

The President then announced that the next business was the election of officers for the coming year, and asked what was the pleasure of the Society as to the method to be pursued.

Mr. Robert A. Lancaster, Jr., moved that a Nominating Committee be appointed, and on the adoption of his motion the President appointed Mr. Lancaster, Mr. Benjamin B. Minor, and Mr. J. Staunton Moore members of the Committee.

The Committee retired, and on its return the Chairman, Mr. Lancaster, reported the following nominations:

President—William Gordon McCabe, Richmond, Va.

Vice-Presidents—Archer Anderson, Richmond, Va.; Edward V. Valentine, Richmond, Va.; Lyon G. Tyler, Williamsburg, Va.

Corresponding Secretary and Librarian—William G. Stanard, Richmond, Va.

Recording Secretary—David C. Richardson, Richmond, Va.

Treasurer—Robert T. Brooke, Richmond, Va.

Executive Committee—Joseph Bryan, Richmond, Va.; Charles V. Meredith, Richmond, Va.; B. B. Munford, Richmond, Va.; Edward W. James, Norfolk, Va.; Dr. C. W. Kent, University of Virginia; Rev. W. M. Clarke, Richmond, Va.; A. C. Gordon, Staunton, Va.; S. S. P. Patteson, Richmond, Va.; J. A. C. Chandler, New York; S. C. Mitchell, Richmond, Va.; J. P. McGuire, Richmond, Va.; S. H. Yonge, Richmond, Va.

President McCabe, in returning thanks for his election, spoke briefly as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Virginia Historical Society:

After my long, and I fear exhausting, if not exhaustive, Report, which you have just listened to with such patient courtesy, I shall have but few words to say in acknowledgement of the great honor you have done me for the third time.

But cold, indeed, must be the heart of any Virginian, who has gone back—as I have had occasion to do during the past week—to the "Proceedings" of this society from its organization in the Hall of the House of Delegates, just seventy-three years ago to-morrow, and marked the long roll of Virginia "Worthies" connected with it as officers or members of its "Executive Committee"—cold, indeed, I say, must be the heart of any man, noting these distinguished names, beginning with John Marshall, its first president, and continuing down through all the years, that would not feel a thrill of pride in having such signal honor as this accorded him.

And yet to all, save the most self-sufficient, it must be a pride most sharply tempered by an unaffected diffidence and fraught with an insistent fear lest he prove but a paltry foil to the illustrious men who have graced the position by their varied accomplishments, and enhanced its dignity by their personal and civic virtues no less than by their commanding vigor of intellect.

Only in one respect may I claim, I trust without immodesty, to be the peer of any son of our "Old Dominion"—and that is, in my passionate devotion to my mother-state, whose whole

history from her first settlement—down through all the centuries from Nathaniel Bacon to George Washington, from Washington to Robert Edward Lee—has been informed by an antique spirit of freedom, that never recked of cost or consequence, and has been marked by the instant readiness of her people to attest by their blood their devotion to those principles that since the days of Runnymede have been the common heritage of all English-speaking folk.

"*Bene est facta moresque clarorum virorum tradere,*" is the sonorous utterance of the greatest historian of the Roman world—such was, in chief measure, the noble aim of the founders of this Society—such has been the constant purpose of their successors, and I charge you all remember that it is only through the loyal support of each and every member of the Society, the wise counsels of its able "Executive Committee," and last, though by no means least, through the vigilant labors of our learned and accomplished Secretary, whose original investigations have made his name a household word to the trained antiquarians of England and America—it is only, I repeat, through the unstinted help of all these, that I venture to trust that I may maintain in some becoming measure the high traditions bequeathed me by my predecessors in this office.

On motion, Mr. Lancaster was called to the chair.

It was then moved that the Society tender its thanks to the President for the zeal and ability with which for the past two years he had performed the duties of the office.

The vote of thanks was unanimously given.

The President then resumed the chair.

Mr. Stanard then spoke briefly in regard to the bill to establish a United States Historical Commission, and moved that the President be requested to prepare a memorial, in the name of

the Society, to both houses of Congress in favor of the passage of the bill.

This motion was adopted, and the President stated that he would promptly obey the order of the Society.

Then, on motion, the meeting adjourned.

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